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‘EMPIRE’ CASTS SOME BIG NAMES

WE HAVE A FEW SEASON 2 SUGGESTIONS. PAGE 26

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ShotSpotter is all ears for the NYPD

PAGE 04

Gillian Jacobs on moving to Yahoo

PAGE 24

Meet the Mets who need to step up in 2015

PAGE 30

Wheels for meals

Helping families. Tommy Robinson drives through the city on behalf of the New York Common Pantry collecting food for the city's less fortunate. PAGE 02

Tommy Robinson waiting at Trader Joe's on 72nd Street to pick up food for the New York Common Pantry. / BESS ADLER, METRO

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'Justin Bieber can't stop celebrating his birthday'

2 'It's official, Boston has beat its snow record'

3 'VIDEO: Mike Tyson publishes video featuring all his knockouts'

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Feeding thousands of New Yorkers each day

Charity. Dedicated drivers pick up unused food for a local fresh-food pantry program.

Tommy Robinson makes a pickup at Eli's on the Upper East Side (above) and Trader Joe's (below). / BESS ADLER, METRO

Uneaten trays of baked ziti, tamales, sushi, turnips, pallets upon pallets of decaf coffee — if you've got extra food, New York Common Pantry will take it off your hands.

And Tommy Robinson is one of the men who will deliver it to the East Harlem-based charity.

"Going to work every day and seeing how people are struggling — we always be complaining about this and that and that, but compared to how others have it, we have it pretty well," Robinson said.

Robinson has worked for New York Common Pantry for 13 years. He's one of two drivers who pick up donations from local grocery stores, chain restaurants, bakeries and corporate cafeterias. The pantry is open year-round, not only supplying fresh and packaged food for its members, but also serving hot and brown-bag meals.

Robinson and the other driver, Jassim Thomas, and their vans gather enough food to feed between 1,500 and 2,000 families a week.

The New York City Coalition Against Hunger's 2014 annual survey found 1 in 6 New Yorkers are food insecure. That means 1.4 million New Yorkers don't have enough food, and 1 in 4 children, and 1 in 10 adults, are food insecure.

"When you're getting donations, you just have to wait it out," Robinson said. "It could be five minutes, it could be 20 minutes."

It takes longer than that on Monday, but after killing time listening to sports radio and making a few phone calls, the loading dock opens at the Trader Joe's at 72nd and Broadway. Robinson and a store employee load up more than a dozen boxes of fresh grapefruit, oranges, peppers, eggplants and other produce packed in Chiquita banana boxes.

Kelly Barkley, development coordinator at New York Common Pantry, said the organization started providing more fresh produce and whole grains about five years ago, after families in the food program said they weren't able to eat canned vegetables, either because of dietary restrictions, or because of personal health preferences.

About 60 percent of the pantry food served or given to families comes from donations, and the rest is purchased.

"The donations helps us keep our budget for buying food in check," Barkley said.

"Sometimes I'll be out driving, and if I see somebody in the street who doesn't know where to go, I steer them in the right direction, I'll be able to tell them you can go there, get food, get services and shower and haircuts," Robinson said. "And when you see them there, it makes you feel good."

By the numbers

1.5M
In 2008, 1.5 million meals were served by New York Common Pantry.

3.1M
In 2015, 3.1 million meals are expected to be served.

165
New Yorkers in 165 zip codes use New York Common Pantry.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

Progress or PR? Gay group to march in St Paddy's parade

St. Patrick's Day Parade
FILE PHOTO

Metro takes you through what you need to know about the issue.

Hasn't the ban on gays marching in the St. Patrick's Day ended?
Officially, yes. The organizer of the world's oldest and largest parade honoring Catholic St. Patrick, said in September 2014 that they would no longer ban gay groups from participating — or carrying a banner of their choosing.

Wasn't a gay group chosen to march?
Yes. Out@NBCUniversal, a lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual employee resource group, was chosen to march — the only gay-tied group selected.

And didn't companies that boycotted it rejoin the parade?
Indeed. The makers of Heineken and Guinness both said they were back.

So why are Mayor Bill de Blasio and other politicians boycotting the 254th St. Patrick's Day Parade?
Many gay groups and politicians, like the mayor, who self-identify as "progressives" think organizers are trying to pull a fast one. "I have made very clear that there has to be more progress for me to consider marching in the parade," de Blasio said in announcing that his boycott is still on.

Why is the NBC group not good enough?
The very choice of Out@NBCUniversal, they say, is evidence that this is more a PR stunt than a true shift. They note the group is one that advocates for NBC's gay employees — and not an actual gay Irish group. They also note that the parade has long been broadcast by local New York NBC. JOHN A. OSWALD

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ShotSpotter is all ears for the NYPD

Technology. The police force has rolled out devices capable of sensing gunshots.

The New York Police Department is listening for every gunshot in the most dangerous parts of the Bronx and Brooklyn with the rollout of its latest surveillance tool.

More than 300 ShotSpotter sensors have been placed throughout 17 precincts and three public housing bureaus in the neighborhoods with the highest number of gun crimes and victims.

"Other parts of the city are fortunate they don't have that distinction," Bratton told reporters Monday, adding that they will expand the pilot program over time if it's successful.

Currently designed as a one-year pilot program with a $1.5 million price tag, ShotSpotter sensors will be able to triangulate gunshots in five zones that measure about three square miles each.

ShotSpotter records street sounds and grabs anything that might register as a gunshot. The data is sent to California-based technicians who verify whether or not the sound was a gunshot.

Officials said the program has an 80 percent accuracy rate, with technicians trained to filter out other things that can sound like a gunshot, including fireworks and back-firing engines.

A previous $500,000 gunshot-detection system the NYPD tried out in 2011 was abandoned when it wasn't able to accurately determine what were and what were not gunshots.

Quoted

"The Bronx and Brooklyn have more than their fair share and more than the majority of shootings and shooting victims."
Bratton

CHESTER SORIA
@chestersoria
chester.soria@metro.us

ShotSpotter technology will allow the New York Police Department to locate where shootings occur. / ROSA M.MCDOWELL, METRO

Garner case

NYPD Wikipedia editors to go unpunished

Two NYPD officers who edited Wikipedia pages on the chokehold death of Eric Garner, stop-and-frisk and several high-profile shootings — including the Sean Bell case — likely won't be punished, NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton said Monday. He said the department will be reviewing social media policies. METRO

Subway pusher. Woman faces 22 years in prison for attack

The woman who killed an innocent man by pushing him onto the tracks of an incoming 7 train in late 2012 faces at least 22 years in prison.

Erika Menendez, 33, pleaded guilty to the death of Sunnando Sen, 46, who died in Sunnyside at the 40th Street-Lowery train station during the evening commute.

"The defendant has admitted committing what is every subway commuter's worst nightmare — being suddenly and senselessly pushed into the path of an oncoming train," Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said in a statement.

After her arrest, the New York Daily News quoted cops who said Menendez blamed Hindus and Muslims for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. METRO

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Brooklyn

Former biz improvement director bilked thousands from organization

The former director of the North Flatbush Business Improvement District is accused of taking $85,000 from the group that promotes small businesses, using the money to buy tickets to a Beyonce concert, chocolates and airline tickets.

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson said Sharon Davidson, 63, was also collecting unemployment benefits while working for the North Flatbush BID.

An investigation by the DA's office and Department of Investigation found the executive director made withdrawals from the group's bank accounts between early 2010 and late 2013. Some of the purchases included $400 on manicures, $600 at Weight Watchers and $3,000 at Fresh Direct.

Davidson was arraigned on numerous charges of grand larceny, criminal possession of a forged instrument, scheme to defraud and offering a false instrument for filing. She was released on her own recognizance and is due back in court in May. METRO

Quoted

"This type of charged conduct sabotages an entire community." Peters

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Outrageous. Boston beats Big Apple ... in the price of housing

Boston (top) finally takes the prize from New York City (bottom). / FILE PHOTOS

Boston beats New York — but Honolulu, Hawaii tramples all comers.

And we're not talking sports.

The folks at list-crazy Forbes magazine are out with their rankings of "America's Most Overpriced Cities," and three Massachusetts metro areas are in the top 10.

Boston-Quincy took No. 3, one step past New York City. At the center of its ranking on the list is the city's cost of housing.

Writes Forbes: "Thanks to its plethora of universities, arts organizations, top-notch health care institutions, and strong start-up culture, Boston is a great place to build a career and life. Salaries in the metro area are relatively high, with a median family income of $87,317, 12th among the largest metros in the nation. In Boston, that high income level matters — because the one thing the area doesn't offer residents is a cheap cost of living."

"I believe Boston is not overpriced," Boston College economics professor Can Erbil insists, noting its great hospitals, culture and history. "It's priced exactly right." JOHN A. OSWALD

The Forbes top 10

1. Honolulu, Hawaii
2. Southern Connecticut
3. Boston, Massachusetts
4. New York City, New York
5. Cambridge, Massachusetts
6. San Francisco, California
7. Oakland, California
8. San Jose, California
9. Essex County, Massachusetts
10. Bergen County, New Jersey

Queens

Fake cabbie busted

A man who posed as a cab driver and told travelers arriving at JFK Airport that the Air Train was broken has been arrested on forgery and soliciting charges. Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said Barnabas Laurent, 47, sought out passengers at the terminal on Saturday, telling them the Air Train was down. METRO

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Clinton accuses GOP of 'trifecta against women'

Clinton. If she does run for president, women's issues will be a central part of her campaign message.

Hillary Clinton / GETTY IMAGES

Potential White House contender Hillary Clinton criticized the Republican-led Congress on Monday in a pair of tweets, calling Capitol Hill fights over a key Obama administration nominee and a human trafficking bill a "trifecta against women."

She has highlighted the fact that women frequently get paid less than men for similar work, an issue that appears to resonate with voters.

On Monday, she knocked Republican senators for failing to quickly confirm Loretta Lynch, President Barack Obama's choice for the next attorney general.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Sunday that he would hold up Lynch's nomination until Democrats stop blocking an unrelated anti-human trafficking bill. The bill is popular, but it includes anti-abortion provisions that Democrats say they cannot support.

In two Twitter posts, Clinton criticized the delay in confirming Lynch, who would be the first African-American woman to serve as attorney general, and said Congress was "playing politics with trafficking victims" and "threatening women's health & rights."

Congressional Republicans are already attacking Clinton under the assumption that she will be the Democrats' nominee in 2016. Lawmakers want her to testify this spring about her email practices while she served as secretary of state. REUTERS

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Five things you need to know

1 US Ebola patient now in 'critical' condition

The condition of the American Ebola patient being treated at the U.S. National Institutes of Health in Maryland has worsened from serious to critical, NIH said in a statement on Monday.

The patient, a healthcare worker, was evacuated from West Africa and arrived at the NIH clinical center on Friday. The patient, described as a clinician working with Partners In Health at the medical aid group's Sierra Leone Ebola center, has not been further identified.

Partners in Health said in a statement that 10 of its clinicians in Sierra Leone "came to the aid of their ailing colleague" and were subsequently identified as contacts of the patient now being treated at NIH. **REUTERS**

2 Blackstone to buy former Sears Tower in Chicago for $1.3 billion

Sears Tower / GETTY IMAGES

The Blackstone Group LP agreed on Monday to buy the Willis Tower, the former Sears Tower that for 25 years was the world's largest building, in a deal that features an observation deck as a tourist attraction and unique revenue stream.

The acquisition was valued at $1.3 billion, making it the highest price paid for a U.S. office tower outside of New York, according to MarketWatch, which first reported the news.

Blackstone has agreed to buy the property, which features a top Chicago tourist attraction in the Skydeck on the 103rd floor, from New York investors Joseph Chetrit and Joseph Moinian and Skokie, Illinois-based American Landmark Properties, MarketWatch said.

Height

110

The 110-story Willis Tower at 233 South Wacker Drive is the second-tallest U.S. office building with 3.8 million square feet of space, and fifth-tallest office building in the world, Blackstone said in a news release.

The Skydeck attracts 1.6 million visitors annually, a draw that Blackstone hopes to build on. The Skydeck includes the "Ledge," glass cubes that extend from the Willis Tower with an unobstructed downward view because of the see-through flooring.

"We are bullish on Chicago as companies expand within and move into the city and look for first-class office space," said Jacob Werner, a managing director in Blackstone's real estate group. "We see great potential in further improving both the building's retail operations and the tourist experience." **REUTERS**

3 LAPD officer sought for questioning in fatal shooting

A rookie Los Angeles police officer was being sought on Monday as a person of interest in the fatal Southern California shooting of another man in the bar district in Pomona, local authorities said.

Henry Solis was off-duty on Friday morning when gunfire killed 23-year-old Salome Rodriguez, Jr. in Pomona, 30 miles east of Los Angeles, the Pomona Police Department said in a statement on Sunday.

A 27-year-old probationary officer, Solis later failed to show up for work on Saturday following the shooting, and his car was found on Sunday abandoned near the scene. **REUTERS**

4 Durst says he 'killed them all' in HBO film

New York real-estate heir Robert Durst, who was arrested over the weekend in the slaying of a friend and whose wife disappeared in 1982, says he "killed them all" in the final installment of an HBO film that aired Sunday night.

Near the end of the sixth episode of the series, Durst, in a bathroom and apparently unaware that his microphone was recording, whispers, "What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course."

Durst, 71, has been the subject of morbid fascination for years. He was arrested in New Orleans on March 14 in connection with the execution-style death in Los Angeles of his confidante, Susan Berman, who was killed 14 years ago

Durst was carrying a revolver when he was detained, the Associated Press said Monday, citing a police report. The suspect waived extradition and was awaiting transfer to Los Angeles, AP said. Bloomberg

DURST
GETTY IMAGES

5 Cyclone Pam devastation in Vanuatu, 24 confirmed killed

A home destroyed by Cyclone Pam in Port Vila. / GETTY IMAGES

Reports from the outer islands of Vanuatu painted a picture of utter destruction after a monster cyclone tore through the South Pacific island nation, flattening buildings and killing at least 24 people.

Disaster management officials and relief workers were struggling to establish contact with the islands that bore the brunt of Cyclone Pam's winds of more than 185 mph, which destroyed homes, smashed boats and washed away roads and bridges as it struck late on Friday and into Saturday.

Twenty-four people were confirmed dead and 3,300 displaced according to a statement by the National Disaster Management Office. **REUTERS**

Bus appears to be teetering on the edge

Royal Academy of Arts artist Richard Wilson's work "Hang On A Minute Lads, I've Got A Great Idea" features a full-sized replica coach bus that appears to be teetering on the edge of The Peninsula hotel in Hong Kong. The art installation is based on a scene from the movie "The Italian Job." / GETTY IMAGES

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Boston. Witnesses recall accused bomber's fight with police, arrest

An artist's sketch of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev hangs on the wall outside the Moakley Federal Courthouse. / GETTY IMAGES

The accused Boston Marathon bombers tossed bombs and fired a pistol at police in their final hours on the run before a dazed and wounded Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was found hiding in a dry-docked boat and arrested, witnesses testified on Monday.

Police and civilian witnesses at his trial on Monday recalled the ferocity of that final gunfight, when Tsarnaev and his older brother used a bomb similar to the ones made from pressure cookers they set off at the race.

Defense attorneys opened his case earlier this month by admitting the younger Tsarnaev committed all the crimes with which he is charged, but attempted to paint his 26-year-old brother, Tamerlan, as the driving force behind the attacks.

Shifting some of the responsibility to Tamerlan, who died after Dzhokhar ran him over at the end of the gunfight, could convince the jury to sentence the surviving brother to life in prison without possibility of parole rather than death, defense attorneys contend.

One man who lived on the block where the Tsarnaevs fought with police testified that he was sleeping in the living room of his home with his 3-week-old son when he was awakened by gunshots.

Quoted

"I didn't look for long. I saw that it was pretty serious and I wanted to get my kid back upstairs to the back of his house." Foley

"I looked outside and I could see guns firing," the man, James Foley, testified at U.S. District Court in Boston. REUTERS

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Missouri

Suspect in Ferguson shooting of police appears in court

Jeffrey L. Williams
ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE DEPT.

The man accused of wounding two policemen during a protest rally outside the Ferguson, Missouri police headquarters last week appeared in court on Monday briefly and did not enter a plea.

The shooting was the latest violent incident in months of demonstrations in Ferguson, a St. Louis suburb, after a white police officer shot dead unarmed black teen Michael Brown during a confrontation in August.

Jeffrey L. Williams, 20, has admitted to firing the shots that wounded the officers early Thursday and also told authorities he was not shooting at police, Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch said on Sunday after announcing the arrest.

Williams did not give any statements on Monday during his brief appearance before Judge Joseph Dueker in St. Louis County Circuit Court. He is charged with first-degree assault and his bond is set at $300,000.

Williams told Dueker he was going to hire a private attorney, St. Louis County Public Defender Stephen Reynolds said.

No one responded Monday at the Williams address listed in court records, a one-story blue house that had trash strewn on the lawn. Neighbors declined to comment.

Police had called the shooting an "ambush" of the officers, who were standing side by side, by a gunman embedded with protesters, but McCulloch said Williams may have been shooting at someone else. REUTERS

Not here. High-tech paint gives urinating revelers a soaking

A video screenshot showing what happens when a person urinates on the special water-repellent paint. / YOUTUBE

People living in Hamburg's St. Pauli's nightclub district are used to hordes of drunken tourists, crime and prostitution, but many are fed up with late-night revelers who urinate on public and private buildings.

A local interest group has now applied a special water-repellent paint, also used in shipbuilding, on two especially frequented buildings in the renowned nightclub district near the port to deter "Wildpinkeln," as the Germans call it.

Ultra-Ever Dry super-hydrophobic was developed by automakers Nissan. Its oleophobic, nano-coating is water repellent, meaning that those revelers who urinate against it will end up soaking themselves.

"Wild peeing has been a problem here for a long time. But in recent years, it got worse," Julia Staron, who organized the group, told Reuters.

Cost

$530

Staron said it costs about $530 to paint a 65 sq. ft. area but that it was worth the effort and was already having a positive effect on newly protected walls.

"Next week, we are also planning to paint the problem area around Zur Ritze [nightclub] and put up the signs. But owners obviously have to approach us because we can't just run around painting someone else's building," said Staron.

In a video posted on YouTube that drew 181,000 viewers on its first day alone, Staron is shown putting up signs in German and English that say: "Hier nicht pinkeln! Wir pinkeln zurueck!" [Do not pee here! We pee back!]

The special hydrophobic paint is, however, expensive. REUTERS

Social media

Facebook clarifies rules on banned content

Facebook clarified its rules banning certain content from its social network, as the Internet company strives to curb controversial posts such as support for violent, militant groups and nudity without damaging its status as a global hub for users to share information.

The 1.39 billion-member social network updated its "community standards" providing specific examples of content prohibited under its general rules against direct threats, hate speech and criminal activity.

While Facebook has long forbidden groups it deems to be terrorist organizations from posting content on its service, the company specified that it will remove content that expresses support for such groups or praises their leaders.

Facebook also made clear that images "shared in revenge or without permission," often referred to as "revenge porn," are forbidden. REUTERS

Pew survey

Thirty percent of U.S. adults try to shield cyber information

Thirty percent of adults in the United States have taken steps to hide their information from government surveillance programs monitoring phone and electronic communications, a Pew survey said.

About a quarter, or 22 percent, said they had changed use of various technology platforms "a great deal" or "somewhat" since Edward Snowden, a former National Security Agency contractor, disclosed the surveillance programs in mid-2013.

"We find that a portion of the population is adjusting some activity at least in some simple ways like changing their privacy settings and being a bit more discreet in the things they say and search for," said Lee Rainie, director of Internet, science, and technology research at the Pew Research Center.

Government

57%

Fifty-seven percent of those surveyed said it was unacceptable for the government to monitor the communications of U.S. citizens.

Eighty-seven percent of Americans have heard at least something about the monitoring programs, the survey showed.

Some 15 percent have avoided certain software applications, and 15 percent have used social media less often. REUTERS

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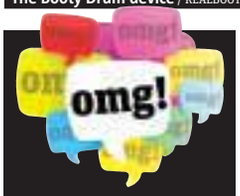
OMG! The new wearable gadget transforms the shake movements of twerking into musical beats

A new wearable aims to transform twerking into musical beats. The Booty Drum attaches to a user's derriere and records various body movements through accelerometers, translating the signals into "unique velocities and triggers." The Real Booty Music project sees a collaboration between Danish headphone manufacturer AiAiAi and Eindhoven-based tech firm OWOW. "It feels a little weird when a couple of guys are shaking their asses in studio," Pieter-Jan Pieters, head of design at OWOW, told Metro.

The Booty Drum device / REALBOOTYMUSIC



Visit us online at **Metro.us/omg** for more interviews.

How does it work?
The dancer has a device on each buttock. When they move a cheek up or down, it wirelessly triggers a sound to play on the computer. Left cheek up — "Sound 1," left cheek down — "Sound 2," right cheek up — "Sound 3," right cheek down — "Sound 4," both together — "Sound 5." So you can play five different sounds at once.

Who will use it?
For now it was a one-time prototype. We created it specifically for this purpose and for us to see what was possible. But if we develop it further, it could be used onstage or in dance routines.

Why have you made the Booty Drum?
We've been working on a range of musical instruments that you can control by movement for the last couple of years. It's based on the idea of creating instruments that you play much more intuitively. When AiAiAi contacted us about doing a fun project around twerking, it sounded super fun for us to develop a dedicated kind of instrument based on the booty shaking, and we started brainstorming about what kind of instrument it could be. We did not want to incorporate everything inside a user's pants and make it unseen but instead make visible instruments that clip on magnetically.

Ordinary musical instruments are not your taste, no?
We wanted to show that everything is possible. There are new methods in making music besides the traditional way. Nowadays, digital or electronic instruments are mostly just digital versions of old acoustic instruments; these instruments are based on pure physical and mechanical principals. With electronic instruments, everything is possible — we don't have to follow these old rules any longer.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Question

What sounds are you creating?

The point is not to create a new type of music, it's more to show there are different ways to create it. For example, in a fashion show, the designer pushes the limits of what's wearable. In real life, you narrow it down to something useful and practical for more people to use. We're not pushing technology since that's not the hardest part in this project — but more in ways of using different methods to create music.

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The leadership ambassadors practiced with area high schoolers. / BARNARD COLLEGE, TIANYUE (ANGELA) SUN

While many college students are spending their spring breaks at the beach or logging some quality time with Netflix, a group of Barnard College students is getting the chance to travel around the world to teach high schoolers about what it means to be a leader.

The 12 students selected as Global Symposium Student Fellows will be spending their vacations in Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro or Paris to conduct the Young Women's Leadership Workshop with teenage girls in each of the three cities.

"I think the college's push to go global is so important because so many times the idea of women's leadership stops when we leave the United States," says Daniella Philipson, a Barnard sophomore who is currently in Paris. "It's not something that I know of that's really on every national agenda, so I thought this symposium was an interesting way of doing that."

Before the group left for their workshops, they held a version of the workshop for teens from 60 high schools around the tri-state area.

Brainstorming solutions

As part of the local workshop, the roughly 90 high schoolers were divided into groups and asked to think about the issues affecting the world around them.

"We thought they'd say something like, 'Oh, we need more recycling bins' — which is a great idea," says Barnard junior Rohini Sengupta, who is part of the group working in Rio. "But they were thinking about how to address victims of sexual harassment and how to help women in politics. They were not afraid to think big."

Empowering students

"It was really nice to be able to speak to a mature crowd [of teens] and have a good conversation," says Philipson. "They can see that it doesn't take long to think about a problem and figure out a solution."

The group

Selecting the Fellows

"We're sending them off to three different countries, so we had to talk to them about what issues they are passionate about and what leadership means to them," says Jennifer Fondiller, Barnard's dean of admissions. The students will be traveling with professors conducting research in each of the cities.

LAKSHMI GANDHI
@LakshmiGandhi
lakshmi.gandhi@metro.us

Breaking stereotypes

Many of the teens participating in the workshop said they were very aware of the perception that teenagers do not care about important issues. "I think [that stereotype] is really stupid," says Olivia Michele, a high schooler from Harlem. "We're definitely worried about what our future will be."

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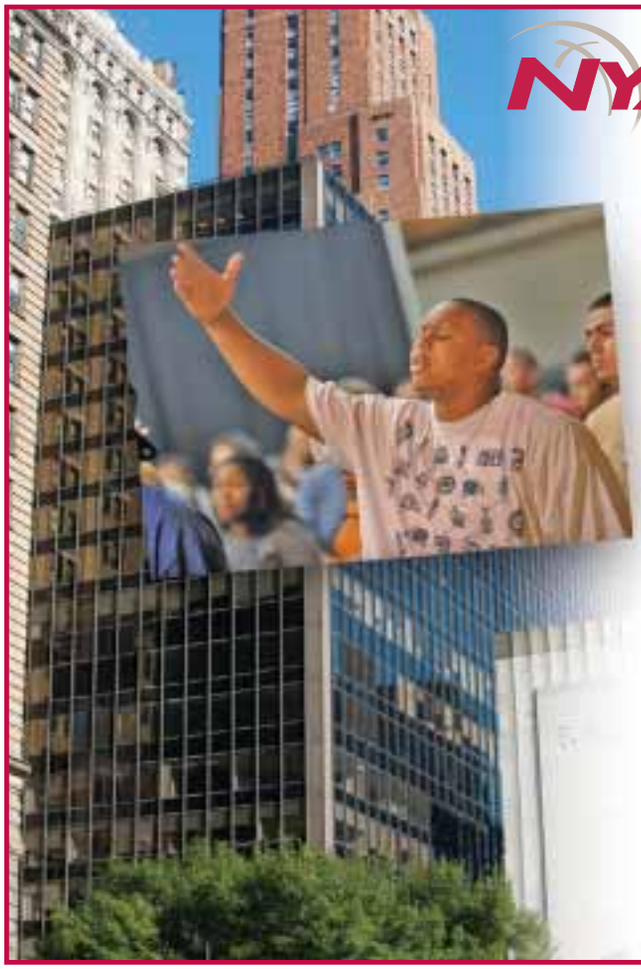

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Touro College GST to Offer Institute for IT Pros and Designers

In the high-stakes world of information technology, IT professionals who learn to identify and solve problems hold the key to success for themselves and the companies they work for.

Recognizing that trend, Touro College Graduate School of Technology will present an important workshop for tech employees in the marketplace called, "Problem Solving for IT Professionals: Secrets for a Successful Technology Career."

Conducted by Phil Teplitzky, Chief Technology Officer and Managing Director of HP Squared, a New York City-based information technology and services company — whose clients include Citibank, MetLife, GE, Visa, and Viacom — this two-and-a-half hour seminar will provide workshops in the latest techniques, tools, and methods for solving problems in a disciplined and structured way. From tackling software system requirements, to glitches in master data management, Mr. Teplitzky will explain:

- how to understand what kind of problem you have
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Touro's Graduate School of Technology trains students in several areas, including computer networking, database administration, web design and development, mobile web creation, and teaching technology in classrooms. The school offers four Master of Science in Information Systems degree programs: Database Systems; Data Communications; Technology Leadership / Project Management; and Web and Applications Development.

In addition, Touro's GST continues to offer workshops and seminars that cater to the needs of life-long learners and career professionals.

"Problem Solving for IT Professionals" will be held Monday, March 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the main campus of Touro College in Manhattan, 27 West 23rd Street, Room 314. Pizza will be served at 6 pm.

"Problem Solving for IT Professionals" is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Anyone interested is encouraged to register by Thursday, March 26 at www.touro.edu/gst/problemsolving. For more information, contact Jack Romano at 212-463-0400, ext. 5462, or jack.romano@touro.edu. For updates on future events sponsored by Touro College GST, visit facebook.com/tourogst or twitter.com/tourogst.

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McGhee information sessions are held throughout the year. On Sunday, March 28, the School will hold a special McGhee open house that will include workshops and breakout sessions, and will provide an in-depth look into the McGhee student experience. Attendees also will learn about the admissions process and receive step-by-step guidance on applying for financial aid. Please visit **sps.nyu.edu/mcghee-events1g** for further details and to register.

For more information about the NYU School of Professional Studies Paul McGhee Undergraduate Division, visit **sps.nyu.edu/mcghee1g,** e-mail **mcgheeadmissions@nyu.edu,** or call **212-998-7100.**

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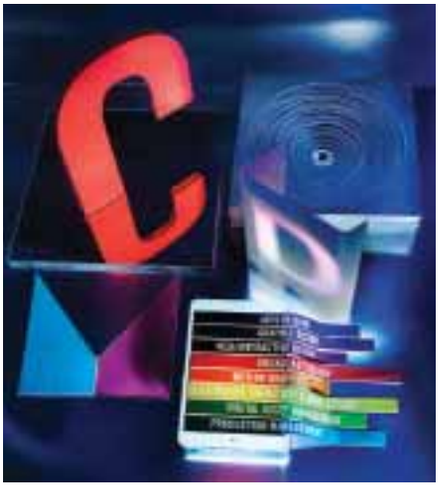

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1 Justin Bieber can't stop celebrating his birthday

Unsurprisingly, Biebs is an "Entourage" fan. /ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The whole birthday concept seems to be a tough one for Justin Bieber to grasp — at least the part about it being one day, that is. Bieber, who actually turned 21 on March 1, followed up the recent taping of his Comedy Central roast with yet another birthday party, this time in Las Vegas. "He was in great spirits," a source tells E! News. "He was having a great time with his friends. He looked good." Oh, good. The Omnia, the nightclub that threw the lavish bash, even gave him a cake shaped like the Lincoln Continental from "Entourage." Now I'm just curious what his two-monthlong Memorial Day celebration will look like.

2 Kanye West tweets out sexy pictures of Kim Kardashian

@KANYEWEST/INSTAGRAM

Kanye West, never one to let a Monday pass by as any ol' start to the week, has inexplicably sent out a series of tweets featuring semi-nude pictures of his wife, Kim Kardashian.

The pictures appear to be from a photo shoot and were accompanied by tweets with messages like "SWISH!!!!" and "IM SO LUCKY."

While other husbands might send their wives flowers to celebrate their accomplishments, this was apparently West's way of showing the world how proud he is of his wife, who has reached 30 million Twitter followers.

SWISH. **MATT LEE**

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

Go to **Metro.us** for exclusive coverage from SXSW, including "Night Owls" stars Adam Pally and Rosa Salazar.

Jennifer Aniston is going to have to do some re-planting.

2 Jennifer Aniston's unexpected visitor

Jennifer Aniston got some unsolicited gardening recently when a drunk driver reportedly jumped the curb and landed on her lawn, taking out some plants along the way, according to TMZ. It's unclear whether Aniston or fiancé Justin Theroux were home at the time, but her security guard called the cops, who promptly arrived and busted the driver after he failed a sobriety test. There's a very obvious "Friends" theme song joke in this about being stuck in second gear, but I like to think I'm better than that. (I'm not.)

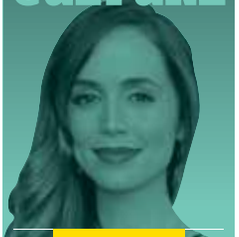
Daily video

@ROMANATWOOD/YOUTUBE

Epic house TP'ing

It seriously does not pay to be friends with YouTube prank aficionado Roman Atwood, as his buddy Howie Mandel learns in Atwood's latest video that features an epic, monster-scale take on toilet-papering a house. It's not entirely eco-friendly — or very nice to germaphobe Mandel — but it is fun to watch.

2 CULTURE



Twitter feed

Today, Roseanne Barr is looking for some likes, Eliza Dushku ain't having it, Hailee Steinfeld wants to hit the beach, Patton Oswalt is defending Limp Bizkit, and Mindy Kaling is feeling impatient.

@therealroseanne: read my fb posts on the Israeli election

@elizadushku: Fear, I f---ing hate you.

@HaileeSteinfeld: I. Can't. Wait. For. Summer.

@pattonoswalt: "At least I'm not the worst thing to happen to the 'Durst' name." -- Fred Durst, watching THE JINX.

@mindykaling: I know it's not fair but on Walking Dead I wish they would grieve their loved ones quicker

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The unkillable show returns

Interview. "Community" may have faced cancellation many times, but a jump to Yahoo saved it once more.

The world of TV is littered with examples of much-loved but underwatched shows that aired for a season and disappeared, but few have had as strange a life as "Community," the pop culture-obsessed show about a group of misfits at a community college. Perpetually near cancellation, the show has seen the departure of various cast members, and the firing and rehiring of creator Dan Harmon. After NBC finally pulled the plug, an unexpected savior popped up in the form of Yahoo, and the show returns today with new episodes.

Series star Gillian Jacobs (Britta) says she's not too worried about the change in venue. "Post-'House of Cards,' you'd be silly to be nervous, especially at a place like Yahoo, that has the resources to really support the show," she says. "You look at the other programming they're doing — they have good taste! I mean, they liked us, so they have great taste."

The show will be introducing two new characters, played by Paget Brewster and Keith David. "Paget's character is very much in charge of keeping us in line, and we are an unruly crowd, so I think that's a potential source of conflict. Keith's character maybe intimidates Britta slightly," says Jacobs.

The return of the show means viewers get to see all kinds of new journeys for the characters, and meet Britta's parents, who are played by Martin Mull and Leslie Ann Warren (or Colonel Mustard and Miss Scarlet, if you're "Clue" fans).

"As a 'Clue' fan, I was really excited," says Jacobs of the casting. "We're starting to see a little bit more of the characters' outside lives, help inform who they are, why they are, what the hell happened to Britta to make her Britta."

She's referring, of course, to the characters' tendency to call her "the worst" for her buzzkill tendencies. Would she ever want them to stop calling her that?

"No, I'm branded with that! It's a point of pride now, to be the worst. No, that's like a tattoo, I can't."

GILLIAN JACOBS / FILMMAGIC

The first two episodes of "Community" premiered at 12:01 a.m. PST last night. You may also have seen Jacobs as Mimi-Rose on this season of "Girls." / YAHOO, SONY PICTURES TELEVISION

Ups and downs

Last minute reprieve

"Emotional roller coaster" might be the best way to describe working on "Community." Jacobs says she hoped NBC might bring the show back because "we had come so close and cheated death so many times on NBC." When they didn't, "A lot of people told me 'Community is dead,' you must move on, so, trying to be an emotionally healthy person, I moved on, and then at the very last minute, this deal came through."

LISA WEIDENFELD
@LisaWeidenfeld
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

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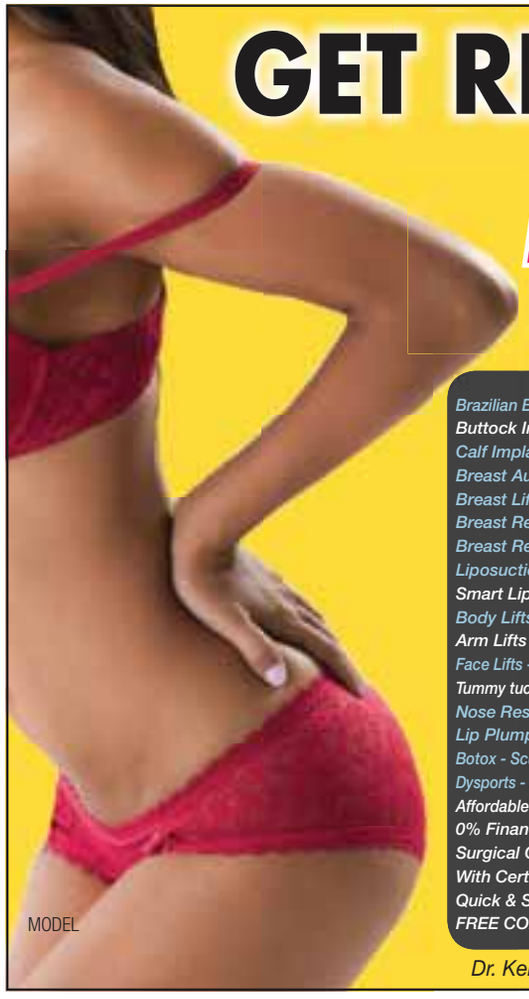
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5 People we want to see on 'Empire' next season

Guest stars. Given the popularity of the show, we bet celebrities will be lining up to make cameos.

The two-hour season finale of "Empire" airs Wednesday on Fox at 8 p.m. / CHUCK HODES, FOX

"Empire," now almost at the end of its first season, has gone through a meteoric rise, and it's starting to attract some pretty impressive guest stars. Mary J. Blige, Courtney Love and Jennifer Hudson have all stopped by, and creator Lee Daniels has announced that Oprah and Common will be appearing next season. We brainstormed a few more potential guest stars for the show.

1 Any of the ladies from "20 Feet from Stardom." If you haven't seen this doc about the women who performed some of the most iconic backing vocals on rock songs in the '60s and '70s, you should. We think any of them would work on "Empire," perhaps as part of an attempt by Lucious to cement his legacy as a music producer.

2 Janelle Monae. Can Janelle Monae act? Who knows? She's got impeccable style, she's a great singer and we can easily picture her as an up and coming star who clashes with Lucious and is only willing to be managed by Cookie (everyone on the show should insist on being managed by Cookie).

3 Jamie Foxx. After "Annie" didn't exactly set the world on fire this winter, we think Foxx might be ready for a visit to the small screen. Maybe he could play the cop who finally gets some real dirt on Lucious.

4 Kanye West. It's probably a long shot (we're not sure Mr. West is interested in acting), but he's already been referenced as a real person in the world of "Empire," so he could get away with playing himself. Maybe he could mentor Hakeem?

5 Jennifer Lopez. Lopez's record as a movie star is a bit mixed. Lopez just needs to find the right role. Maybe she could be an old prison pal of Cookie's. We're due to meet some of the people she met in her 17 years behind bars.

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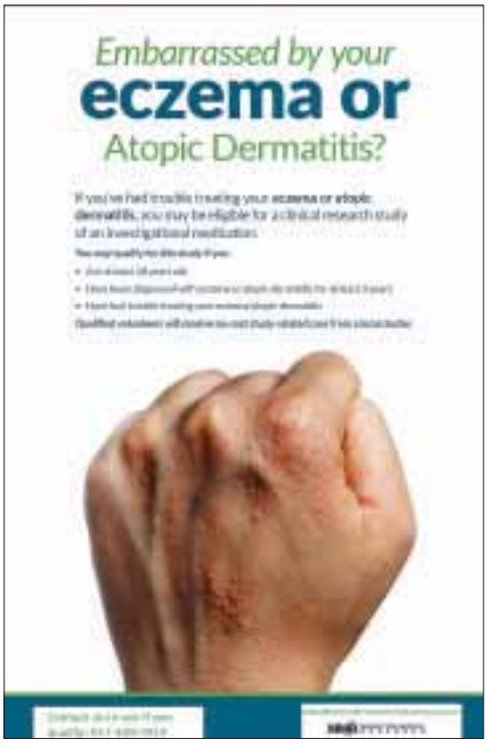

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The cutest kids' Easter clothes

Shopping. We round up the best looks from your favorite stores.

Even in a city where head-to-toe black is uniform, you have to admit, kids all dressed up in pastel clothes and shiny shoes for Easter are pretty darn cute. Since you most likely don't have time to run from children's store to children's store hunting for the perfect Easter outfits for your kids, we did the browsing for you and rounded up our top looks.

EMILY LAURENCE
@EmLaurence
emily.laurence@metro.us

H&M

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Vineyard Vines

Seersucker sports coat, **$125**

Gymboree

Straw fedora, **$18.95**

Gap Kids

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Plaid shirt, **$14.98**

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H&M

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ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

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Birthday party politics: Should every kid get an invite?

Mommyhood Musings

YESENIA ALMONTE

Twitter and Instagram: @yeseniaalmonte

Metro's new parenting blogger will be sharing her parenting triumphs and fails — and taking you along for the ride. Yesenia Almonte is a born and bred New Yorker who lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two sons, Hudson, 3, and Crosby, 10 months.

When your child doesn't get a party invite, your heart aches for them. / PROVIDED

Surprise! That's exactly what I felt this past weekend when my 3-year-old, Hudson, and I walked into our building's playroom (which is a daily stop for the parents who live in the building) and stumbled upon a young child's birthday party. A child, who coincidentally, plays with my son quite often in that very same play room but a party that, surprisingly (no pun intended!) he was not invited to.

My son immediately yelled "Birthday Party!" because like all kids, he loves a birthday party. Once the birthday girl and my son fixed eyes on each other they immediately ran towards the other and started to play (as I said, they are playroom buddies). I, on the other hand, felt awkward around all the parents who were invited to the party and kept introducing themselves to me as though I were also one of the guests.

As you can imagine, the birthday girl's dad (and my neighbor) was pretty embarrassed at this turn of events and immediately began offering up excuses, nervously saying that he didn't have my email, otherwise he would've invited us, yadda, yadda, yadda. Dude, relax, you are not obligated to invite us to your daughter's birthday party. Yes, it was slightly odd, but I thought he should simply acknowledge it and move on. No need to have a pity party (again with the puns!), as we have plenty of birthdays to attend on our calendar. Nevertheless, I wanted out of this awkward situation, but my son was having too much fun.

I know this won't be the first or last time something like this happens, and that my son won't always be oblivious to the circumstances, but I decided to stay and shake it off. Seeing past these uncomfortable moments and overcoming the insecurities that manifest themselves as a result is something I will teach my son to do as he gets older, but for this one time, I simply let my little buddy enjoy playing with his friend at her birthday party.

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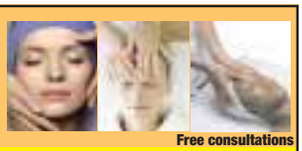

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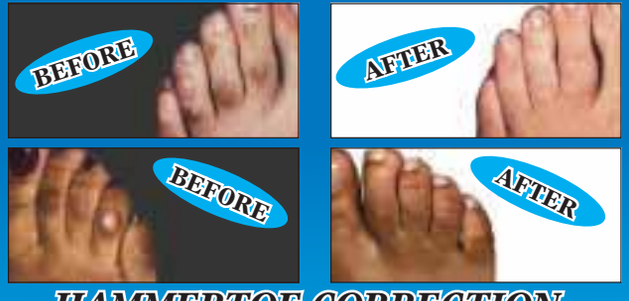

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Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
You will face problems with authority figures if you haven't been playing by the rules. Keeping all of your documents in order will relieve some pressure.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
Stay on top of your workload. Someone from your past will help you remember your youthful self and your goals.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
Making promises you can't keep will not lead to popularity. Overindulgence will concern your peers. Get back on track.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
Enroll in seminars that will stimulate your intellect and increase your skills. The information you learn will serve you well.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
Expect headaches if you have overspent. Pare down your standard of living in order to free up cash for unexpected expenses.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
Passion and romance will figure prominently today. A special liaison with a loved one will strengthen your bond and be a source of pleasure and security.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Resolve to take on a new challenge. Sticking to the same routine will lead to boredom and dissatisfaction.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Move forward with personal changes that promise to improve your status and outlook. Taking a leadership role will increase your confidence.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You are in need of some down time. Struggles on the job or at home will take a toll on your health. Avoid group activities for now.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Look for individuals who are in a position to help you reach your goals. Present your ideas and listen to the advice that's offered. A reunion will bring about a prosperous encounter.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Don't wait for someone to do things for you. You know what needs to be done and how to do it, so get moving. Being proactive will help you advance.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Others may expect you to act on their behalf. Don't.

EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	1		6	8		4	3	
			2		4	1		
					1	8	9	
			5			2		
		7	8	1	9	5		
		8			7			
	6	9	1					
		5	9		3			
	8	1		5	2		6	

				4	7	8		
		1	3				6	
5				1	8		2	9
7				6		3		
	4						7	
		8		3				6
6	8		4	2				5
	1				6	2		
		3	1	7				

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Binding wounds doesn't mean burying reality

Re: 'President not doing Ferguson any favors' (Metro, March 17) The president and the attorney general didn't create the emails and other documented evidence of racism in that police department. Nor did they create Ferguson's long — again, well documented — history of hostility to the black community. Furthermore, the problems police encounter in the media and among civil rights groups have an origin in people like Mr. Giarratani, police and district attorneys who simply refuse to criticize or prosecute the most egregious officer misconduct. Very simply, good cops, who are the vast majority, and prosecutors have got to stop protecting bad cops.

THOMAS WILSON, VIA EMAIL

Re: 'President not doing Ferguson any favors' (Metro, March 17) Letter writer Sal Giarratani seems to have missed the part of the Ferguson story about the unfair and illegal targeting of African-Americans by both the police and the court system, as well as the exploitation of that minority community to bolster the coffers of the city. The fact, yes, FACT, that African-Americans have been the target of "racist-like practices," and the long overdue recognition of this pattern, by not only Ferguson, but numerous other communities across the country, has been completely overlooked by Mr. Giarratani.

While African-Americans have been aware of these practices for decades, this is the first time in my life that I have ever seen it officially recognized.

Yes, America needs to bind up its wounds, and do everything that we can to end these unfair practices, NOT just continue to criticize the victims.

GREGORY HOLMAN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

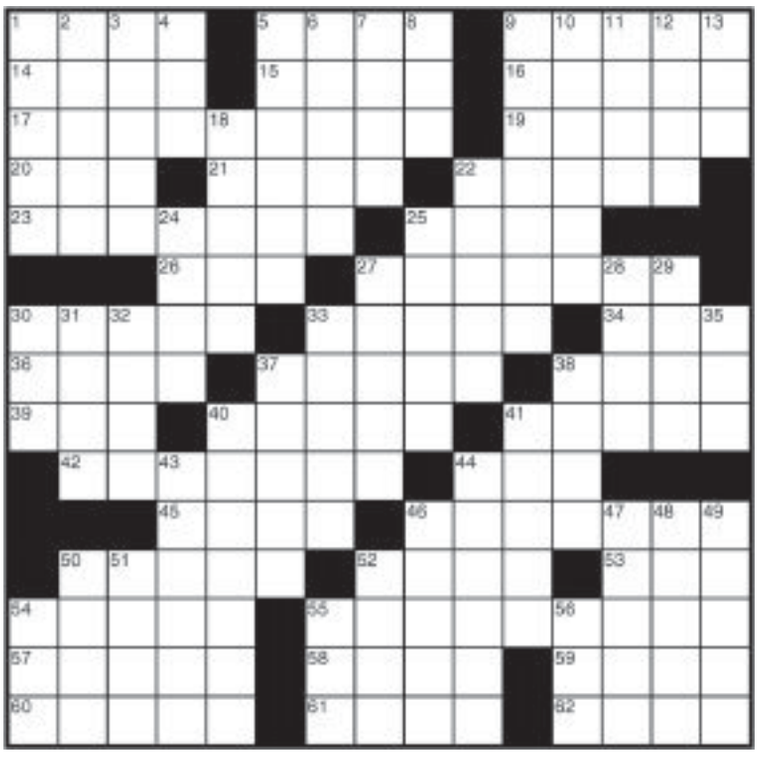
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Crossword

Across
1 Speck of dust
5 Film terrier
9 Hack
14 Comics penguin
15 Kind of lens
16 Stan's cohort
17 Freely
19 Any old things
20 Wheel buy (2 wds.)
21 Newsman — Abel
22 Keats' saint
23 Dwelled
25 One-sidedness
26 Width of a cir.
27 Big woolly animal
30 Ruminated
33 Blender button
34 911 responder
36 Late tennis great
37 Emulated a siren
38 Running wild
39 Drink with scones
40 Violin parts
41 — Rose Lee
42 Like new shoes
44 Do Easter eggs
45 M, to Einstein
46 Oater hero
50 Pool dimension
52 Numbers game
53 Give it — —
54 Condor nest
55 Ski turns
57 Roebuck's partner
58 Rate of movement
59 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
60 Debit opposite
61 Indigo plant
62 Movie mogul

Down
1 Grinding tooth
2 Put one's two cents in
3 Band horns
4 Wind dir.
5 Flowering shrub
6 Well-built
7 Enameled metal
8 Singer — Grant
9 Sting, e.g. (2 wds.)
10 Maria Conchita —
11 Eye shade
12 Flour holders
13 Da or ja
18 Started over
22 Targeted
24 — fixe
25 Makes public
27 Hazy
28 Short-term worker
29 MD employers
30 Bathroom item
31 Makes the most of
32 Hoops nickname
33 Ice hockey gear
35 Upper atmosphere
37 Pet shop buy
38 Nay opposites
40 Least messy
41 Pita treats
43 Sports official
44 Mr. Fahrenheit
46 Danke, in Dijon
47 Split -- (nitpick)
48 Booster rocket
49 Unlucky gambler
50 Ruby and Sandra
51 Historical periods
52 Genghis —
54 — — matter of fact
55 Tax pro
56 Trim a doily

Yesterday's answer



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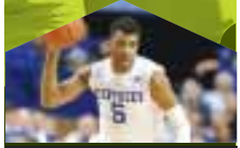
3 SPORTS

NFL

Winston may skip NFL draft

Highly touted quarterback Jameis Winston, who could very well go first overall in the 2015 NFL Draft, might not even show up in Chicago to hear his name called. Winston's dad, Antonor Winston told ESPN.com that the current plan is for Jameis to spend draft day with friends and family in Alabama. The first round of the draft takes place Thursday, April 30. It has been over 20 years since a No. 1 overall pick did not attend the draft as Ohio State's Dan Wilkinson skipped it in 1994.



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3 Mets players to watch as season draws closer

MLB. For the first time in a long time, the Mets are considered contenders in March.

David Wright hit .269 last season and drove in 63 runs. / GETTY IMAGES

The Mets defied the expectations of many by winning 79 games last year, good for second place in the NL East. What's in store for this season? Here are three players to watch as spring training rolls on:

1 Wilmer Flores
He has been anointed as the shortstop of the future, but there is a great deal of skepticism. Many writers and fans clamored for Alderson to acquire a shortstop via either free agency or trade, but the Mets stood pat. Then again, everyone wanted the Mets to sign Stephen Drew for 2014 and look how that turned out!

Flores hinted at some ability at the plate in 78 games last year; hitting .251 with six home runs and 29 RBIs. He is projected to put up similar stats this year; RotoChamp composite has Flores at .253 with 11 home runs and 47 RBIs.

His defense was often critiqued last season but he had a .979 fielding percentage, which was right in line with the league average at the position last year (.975).

2 David Wright
He has had many good years with the Mets, but last year was not one of them. Wright hit just .269 in 2014 with only eight home runs, his lowest total ever. He was shut down in September with a nagging shoulder issue, which many speculated was the cause of his drop-off in production.

Wright is a seven-time All-Star and is only 32 but he still has to prove that his best days are not behind him and that he will be able to anchor the lineup, batting third. He will get his chance to do that in Port St. Lucie.

3 Sean Gilmartin
A Rule 5 draft pick, he was a starter in the minors last season for the Minnesota Twins. Gilmartin went 9-7 with a 3.71 ERA in 26 total starts between AA and AAA last year. But more important, left-handed batters hit just .201 against him (30-for-149), suggesting that this southpaw could be a candidate to make the Mets and be a force against lefties.

His expertise is in need as Josh Edgin, the incumbent lefty specialist, is going to be out for the season after deciding to undergo Tommy John surgery.

ROBERT CRISCOLA
@itsgood2beking
sports@metro.us

Sports news you need to know

1 Tebow time in Philly?

If Eagles head coach Chip Kelly can get Tim Tebow's NFL career back on track, then he truly is the quarterback whisperer.

The former Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow is "working out" for the Eagles, according to ESPN.

Tebow hasn't thrown a pass in the NFL since the 2012 season when he was with the Jets. His only successful season in the league came in 2011 when he was in Denver. Tebow threw 12 touchdowns with six interceptions that season and led the Broncos to a playoff win over the Steelers. Despite several notable victories in 2011, Tebow only managed a 72.9 passer rating that season.

The Eagles acquired quarterback Sam Bradford from the Rams last week and re-signed Mark Sanchez earlier this off-season. Tebow was Sanchez's backup in New York in 2012. **MATT BURKE**

TIM TEBOW
GETTY IMAGES

ZACK WHEELER
GETTY IMAGES

2 Mets' Wheeler out for season

The Mets pitching staff was dealt another harsh blow Monday when it was learned that righty Zack Wheeler will miss the entire 2015 season due to a torn ulnar collateral ligament in his pitching elbow. Wheeler, like reliever Josh Edgin, will undergo Tommy John surgery. **MATT BURKE**

PETE ROSE
GETTY IMAGES

3 Rose in touch with MLB

MLB commish Rob Manfred acknowledged he has received a formal request from Pete Rose to lift his lifetime ban from baseball. Rose agreed to a permanent ban from the game in the late 1980s after allegations that he gambled on MLB games. **MATT BURKE**

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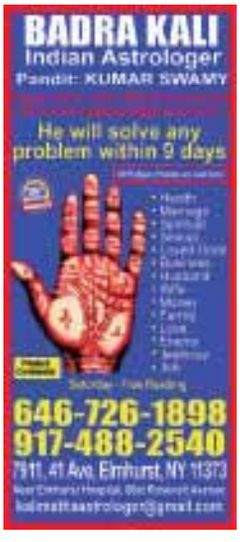

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REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1283879 for Beer, Wine & Liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law in a Restaurant located at 284 Van Brunt St., Brooklyn, NY 11231, for on-premises consumption. RHLP 284 LLC.

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